

Application No. 10/766,230

Remarks***I. Status of the Claims and Support for the Amendment***

Claims 1, 10 and 12 have been amended. Claims 2-9 have been canceled. Claims 13 and 14 have been added. Claims 1 and 10-14 are pending in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation of previously pending claim 9.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 12 has been amended to add a comma.

Support for new claims 13 and 14 is found in the specification and in original claim 10.

No new matter has been added by this amendment.

II. The Lack of Novelty Rejection Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by WO 03/087347. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 2-4 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the detecting of infiltration of a tumor by plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) comprises testing for secondary pDC markers in the circulating blood. WO 03/087347 fails to teach testing for secondary pDC markers in the circulating blood.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. The Obviousness Rejections Should Be Withdrawn***A. The Rejection Over Lissoni Should Be Withdrawn***

Claims 1, 7, 8, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly obvious over Lissoni *et al*, *J. Biological Regulators And Homeostatic Agents* 13: 216-219 (1999) ("Lissoni"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the detecting of infiltration of a tumor by plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) comprises testing for secondary pDC markers in the circulating blood. Lissoni fails to suggest testing for secondary pDC markers in the circulating blood.

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Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

B. The Rejection Over WO 03/033667 Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly obvious over WO 03/033667. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

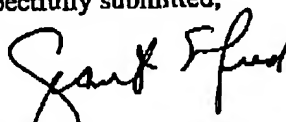
Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the detecting of infiltration of a tumor by plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) comprises testing for secondary pDC markers in the circulating blood. WO 03/033667 fails to suggest testing for secondary pDC markers in the circulating blood.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

It is believed that each of the rejections in the Office Action have been addressed herein.

Respectfully submitted,



Grant Reed
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,264

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Schering-Plough Corporation
Patent Department
Mail Stop K-6-1, 1990
2000 Galloping Hill Road
Kenilworth, NJ 07033-0530
Phone: (908) 298-5067
Fax: (908) 298-5388